LETTER

FROM

Sir *THOMAS BODLEY*, Kt.

SOMETIME

Queen ELIZABETH's

Agent in *HOLLAND*,

To a Great Privy Counsillor, concerning

ENGLAND and the *STATES* General,

Their entring upon a Treaty of PEACE with

PHILIP King of *SPAIN*.

Published as a Seasonable Caution at this Juncture, with respect to a Treaty with FRANCE.

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A LETTER FROM Sir *THOMAS BODLEY*, Kt. SOMETIME Queen ELIZABETH's Agent in *HOLLAND*.

May it please your Lordship,

UPon the receipt of your Yesterstay's Letter, I have sought among my Papers, wherewith to serve your Lordship's turn, *&c.*

To give your Lordship Satisfaction, as touching those Arguments, on which the

GENERAL STATES grounded their unwillingness to hearken to a Treaty, I have herewith sent unto you the Printed Answer of the *States* to the Circles of the Empire, *Anno* 1590: the Proposition of the Baron *de Reidt* the Emperor's Ambassador, together with their Answer, in the Year 1592: the Project of a Letter, which I meant to have sent to *Brussels* to the Ambassador of the Emperor, if your Lordship for respects had not thought it better to suppress it: *Ernestus*'s Letter to the *STATES*, persuading an Accord, with their Answer thereunto in the Year 1594. In those Propositions and Letters is all contained in effect that could be then produced, for making or marring a Peace with the *SPANIARDS*.

First, For *PEACE* is alledged, the geneneral Desire of the Princes in *Europe*; the continual unchristian Effusion of Blood; the Desolation and Ruin of the States of both Parties, through the unspeakable slaughter of their People and Subjects; the intolerable Annoyance of all their Neighbour Countries; the notorious Disorders and Calamities in War; the grievous Impositions of new Taxes and Tallages; the Wearinesse of *Spain*, and their

Thirst

Thirſt after Reſt; whereby the *STATES* might ſtand aſſured of good performance of Conditions; the uncertain Events of Exploits in the Wars; and the Curſe hereafter that their Children might give unto their Parents, for forfeiting by Rebellion their Antient Immunities.

The *STATES* have urged on the other ſide, for continuance of the WARS, the Cruelty, Pride, and Barbarous Carriage of the *Spaniard*, alike with them [in the *Low Countries*] as in the *Indies*, and in all other Places; the Examples of the Frauds, that they have heretofore uſed in all their Compoſitions; the Treacheries and Villanies which they have practiſed always againſt the Perſon of Her Highneſs, and in *France* againſt the King, and both their Dominions; the Violation of their Faith, at ſundry Times, in ſundry Cauſes, by means of their Belief, *Quòd cum Hæreticis non eſt ſervanda fides* [*i. e.* That Faith is not to be kept with Hereticks;] the ambitious Humour of the King, in apparently aſpiring to the general Monarchy; the publick Abjuration received by the *STATES*, againſt him and his Government; the infamous Change of the Enemies Opini-

Opinions, in matter of Religion, to ſerve their own Turns; having always held it heretofore for *Crimen læſæ Majeſtatis*, [*i. e.* High Treaſon] for any Subject to take Arms againſt his Natural Sovereign, and yet giving now of late all manner of Relief to the Rebels in *France*, and likewiſe in *Ireland*; the preſent Means that may be made, as ſoon as Peace is concluded, to draw the *Low-Countries* to a ſervile eſtate; the want of Might in their Allies to protect them, if they would, from that Intention of the Enemy; and *Laſtly*, a moſt happy and ſpeedy Succeſs, which they expect of all their Troubles, if they might be very roundly and ſoundly ſupported.

In effect, My Lord, it was ever ſuppoſed by the *States*, that there can be no Security of Peace with the *Spaniards*. For that Her Majeſty and They can but deal with him in Confidence, upon his ſimple Promiſe, which may prove, in caſe of Breach, much more prejudicial to Her Highneſs and to them, than to the King and his Countries. For if Her Majeſty and the *STATES* ſhould give the King occaſion, he may ſoon work the means

to

to recover his former Strength. But [illegible] wiſe Her Highneſs ſhould be wronged by the King, She ſhould be ſo much then the Weaker, as now She is the Stronger, by reaſon of thoſe Her Forces that are a-foot among the *STATES*. Which in all kind of likelihood, She ſhall hereafter not be able to reduce, when She ſhould, to their preſent eſtate.

This is ſo much as your Letter, which your Lordſhip hath written, doth ſeem to require. Wherewith I would intreat, that ſince I have no other Copies of thoſe Pamphlets and Letters, it might ſtand with your liking, to ſpare them to me again, when your Lordſhip hath no cauſe to detain them any longer. And ſo with humble offer of my uttermoſt Service, in what occaſion ſoever you pleaſe to employ me, I take my humble leave.

Your Lordſhips moſt humble

May the 8. 1598. *at Commaundement*,
From *London*.

Tho. Bodley.